Formulation of National Rehabilitation Policy

† 3206. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a National Rehabilitation Policy keeping in view the indiscriminate increase in the number of the residential units in the cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Housing activity in the country is governed by National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998, which has already been laid before both the Houses of Parliament.

Eviction of Slum Dwellers

† 3207. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBE : Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of slum dwellers are made homeless every year in various cities;

(b) if so, whether a prior notice is served on the slum dweller before evicting them forcefully;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) As per the Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956, where the competent authority is satisfied that any building within a slum area is unfit for human habitation and is not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit, it shall serve upon the owner of the building, and upon any other person having an interest in the building whether as lessee mortgagee or otherwise, a notice to show cause, within such time as may be specified in the notice as to why an order of demolition of the building should not be made.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

This Act is applicable only to Union Territories and since slum in a State subject, every state is covered by its own Slum Improvement Act. (d) Does not arise, Sir.

Schemes for Resettlement of Slum Dwellers

3208. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA : Will the MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state the details of the schemes that are being formulated for the resettlement of slum dwellers ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : Presently the National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) which was introduced in August, 1996 to provide Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to States/UTs for the development of urban slums is under imlementation. The ACA released under this scheme can be utilised to provide physical amenities like water supply, storm water drains, community infrastructure, community primary health care, social amenities like pre-school education, adult education, maternity and child health and primary health care etc. It also has a provision for shelter upgradation.

A draft National Slum Policy has been prepared to address the problem of holistic development of slums. The policy embodies the core principle that households in all urban informal settlements should have access to certain basic minimum services irrespective of land tenure or occupancy status. The main objectives are to create awareness amongst the Public and Government to bring about the integration of the settlements and the communities residing within them into the urban areas as a whole. To strengthen the legal and policy framework to facilitate the process of slum development and improvement on a sustainable basis. And lastly to establish a framework for involving all stakeholders for the efficient and smooth implementation of Policy objectives. The draft Policy have been sent to all States for their comments.

Census to Assess Urban Poor

3209. SHRI P. SOUND ARARAJAN : Will the MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any census has been undertaken to assess the extent of urban poor all over the country and the problem faced by them;